

North Dakota Department of Human Services
Children and Family Services Reviews
FINAL Assessment
Outcomes

Strength

Not in Substantial Conformity/
Area Needing Improvement

I. SAFETY OUTCOMES	
Outcome S1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.	
Item 1. Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment. 92% of the review cases, responses to reports of child maltreatment were initiated within the require timeframes.	Item 2. Repeat maltreatment. North Dakota's incidence of repeat maltreatment for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 1999 (11.7%) was higher than the national standard of 6.1 percent.
Outcome S2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.	
Item 3. Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal. 83% of the cases reviewed, the agency had made diligent efforts to provide services to prevent a child's placement in foster care.	Item 4. Risk of harm to child. In 22% of the cases, reviewers determined that the risk of harm to children was not adequately addressed.
II. PERMANENCY OUTCOMES	
Outcome P1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.	
Item 5. Foster care re-entries. 16.3% of the children entering foster care in North Dakota during Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 1999 were re-entering care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode. This exceeds the national standard of 8.6%.	Item 8. Independent living services. 83% of the applicable cases appeared to adequately address the independent living needs of children in foster care who are age 16 and older.
Item 6. Stability of foster care placement. The percentage of children in foster care in North Dakota for less than twelve months with two or fewer placements was 86.2%. This is less (although only slightly less) than the national standard of 86.7%.	Item 9. Adoption. The State Data Profile indicates that in FFY 1999, 44.0% of finalized adoptions in North Dakota occurred within 24 months of the time the child was removed from the home. This exceeds the national standard of 32.0%.
Item 7. Permanency goal for child. The State data profile indicated that the State met the national standard for the percentages of finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of removal from home, although it did not quite meet the national standard for the percentages of reunifications occurring within 12 months of removal.	Item 10. Permanency goal of other planned permanent living arrangement. The Statewide Assessment indicated that although the percentage of children in foster care with a goal of long term foster care has decreased from 1997 to 1999, the percentage of children with a goal of independent living has increased.
Outcome P2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.	
Item 11. Proximity of foster care placement. This determination is consistent with North Dakota placement's philosophy, as noted in the Statewide Assessment.	Item 14. Preserving connections. 92% of the applicable cases reviewers determined that the agency had made diligent efforts to preserve children's connections.
Item 12. Placement with siblings. 90% of the applicable cases were rated as a Strength with respect to placement with siblings.	Item 15. Relative placement. In 91% of the cases, reviewers determined that the agency had made diligent efforts to search for relatives and to place children with relatives when possible.
Item 13. Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care. Overall rating of Strength because this rating was assigned to all of the case records reviewed.	Item 16. Relationship of child in care with parents. In 87.5% of the case records, reviewers determined that diligent efforts had been made to support the relationship of the children in foster care with their parents.
III. WELL-BEING OUTCOMES	
Outcome WB1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children’s needs.	
Item 17. Needs and services of child, parents, foster parents. In one-fourth of the cases reviewed, reviewers determined that the agency had not adequately met the service needs of children, parents, and foster parents.	Item 19. Worker visits with child. In 22% of the cases, reviewers determined that visits between the workers and the children did not meet State policy recommendations and/or were not sufficient to ensure children's safety and well-being.
Item 18. Child and family involvement in case planning. In over 80% of the cases, reviewers determined that parents and children had been appropriately involved in case plan development.	Item 20. Worker visits with parents. In 82% of the cases, reviewers determined that the frequency of worker visits with parents was appropriate.
Outcome WB2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.	
Item 21. Educational needs of the child. In 91% of the cases, reviewers determined that the agency had made diligent efforts to both assess and meet children's educational needs.	
Outcome WB3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.	
Item 22. Physical health of the child. In 91% of the cases, reviewers determined that the physical health needs of children were appropriately assessed and met.	Item 23. Mental health of the child. Reviewers indicated that in 20 percent of the applicable cases, the child's mental health services needs were not adequately addressed.

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Systemic Factors



Strength



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IV. STATEWIDE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Item 24. The State is operating a Statewide information system that, at a minimum, can readily identify the status, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for the placement of every child who is (or within the immediately preceding 12 months, has been) in foster care.

V. CASE REVIEW SYSTEM

Item 25. Provides a process that ensures that each child has a written case plan to be developed jointly with the child’s parent(s) that includes the required provisions.

Item 26. Provides a process for the periodic review of the status of each child, no less frequently than once every 6 months, either by a court or by administrative review.

Item 27. Provides a process that ensures that each child in foster care under the supervision of the State has a permanency hearing in a qualified court or administrative body no later than 12 months from the date the child entered foster care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter.

Item 28. Provides a process for termination of parental rights proceedings in accordance with the provisions of the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

Item 29. Provides a process for foster parents, preadoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care to be notified of, and have an opportunity to be heard in, any review or hearing held with respect to the child.

VI. QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

Item 30. The State has developed and implemented standards to ensure that children in foster care are provided quality services that protect the safety and health of the children.

Item 31. The State is operating an identifiable quality assurance system that is in place in the jurisdictions where the services included in the CFSP are provided, evaluates the quality of services, identifies strengths and needs of the service delivery system, provides relevant reports, and evaluates program improvement measures implemented.

VII. TRAINING

Item 32. The State is operating a staff development and training program that supports the goals and objectives in the CFSP, addresses services provided under titles IV-B and IV-E, and provides initial training for all staff who deliver these services.

Item 33. The State provides for ongoing training for staff that addresses the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties with regard to the services included in the CFSP.

Item 34. The State provides training for current or prospective foster parents, adoptive parents, and staff of State licensed or approved facilities that care for children receiving foster care or adoption assistance under title IV-E that addresses the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties with regard to foster and adopted children.

VIII. SERVICE ARRAY

Item 35. The State has in place an array of services that assess the strengths and needs of children and families and determine other service needs, address the needs of families in addition to individual children in order to create a safe home environment, enable children to remain safely with their parents when reasonable, and help children in foster and adoptive placements achieve permanency.

Item 36. The services in item 35 are accessible to families and children in all political jurisdictions covered in the State’s CFSP.

Item 37. The services in item 35 can be individualized to meet the unique needs of children and families served by the agency.

IX. AGENCY RESPONSIVENESS TO THE COMMUNITY

Item 38. In implementing the provisions of the CFSP, the State engages in ongoing consultation with tribal representatives, consumers, service providers, foster care providers, the juvenile court, and other public and private child- and family-serving agencies and includes the major concerns of these representatives in the goals and objectives of the CFSP.

Item 39. The agency develops, in consultation with these representatives, annual reports of progress and services delivered pursuant to the CFSP.

Item 40. The State’s services under the CFSP are coordinated with services or benefits of other Federal or federally assisted programs serving the same population.

X. FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION

Item 41. The State has implemented standards for foster family homes and child care institutions, which are reasonably in accord with recommended national standards.

Item 42. The standards are applied to all licensed or approved foster family homes or childcare institutions receiving title IV-E or IV-B funds.

Item 43. The State complies with Federal requirements for criminal background clearances as related to licensing or approving foster care and adoptive placements and has in place a case planning process that includes provisions for addressing the safety of foster care and adoptive placements for children.

Item 44. The State has in place a process for ensuring the diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the State for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed.

Item 45. The State has in place a process for the effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children.